2021 ICD-10-CM/PCS Code Set Updates Q&A
September 24, 2020
Webinar FAQ Document

1. **Question** – When do you use vaping codes? In my mind vaping and e cigs are the same thing?   Is this in the way doctor is saying?

   Answer – You are correct with the statement that "vaping and e-cigs are the same thing" the difference is an e-cig uses cartridges and vapes us a refillable tank. Both utilize the same vaporizing liquid; however, vape users can adjust nicotine content and change "flavors" when using a tank. E-cig users do not have the same options without changing cartridges.

   ICD-10-CM makes note at the code level that "Electronic cigarette" is included in the code use for U07.0 Vaping -related Disorders or with use of the supplemental terms E-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury [EVALI] at both the index and code level.

   The Official Coding Guidelines in Chapter 10: Disease of the Respiratory System (J00-J99), U07.0, Subsection e. Vaping-related disorders notes:

   > For patients presenting with condition(s) related to vaping, assign code U07.0, Vaping-related disorder, as the principal diagnosis. For lung injury due to vaping, assign only code U07.0. Assign additional codes for other manifestations, such as acute respiratory failure (subcategory J96.0-) or pneumonitis (code J68.0).

   > Associated respiratory signs and symptoms due to vaping, such as cough, shortness of breath, etc., are not coded separately, when a definitive diagnosis has been established. However, it would be appropriate to code separately any gastrointestinal symptoms, such as diarrhea and abdominal pain. (AAPC, 2020, p. G17)

2. **Question** – I heard that the GCS codes are only used for trauma and not for other diagnoses for 2021. Is this correct?

   Answer – No, Vitalware was unable to find documentation to support this statement. The basis for reporting the Glosgow Coma Scale Score can be used in multiple health related scenarios, such as encephalopathy, organ failure, severe metabolic disorders that effect brain function and not just traumatic brain or head traumas. Per the Official Coding Guidelines for 2021, Chapter 18: Symptoms, Signs, and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings, Not Elsewhere Classified (R00-R99), Subsection e. Coma Scale it notes:

   > The coma scale codes (R40.2-) can be used in conjunction with traumatic brain injury codes. These codes are primarily for use by trauma registries, but may be used in any setting where this information is collected. The coma scale codes should be sequenced after the diagnoses code(s). (AAPC, 2020, p. G23)